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Application No.: 10/698,422

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method ~~according to claim 6[.]~~ of manufacturing a recording medium having pairs of groove tracks and land tracks provided side by side while being bent periodically, a plurality of land prepits previously formed on said land tracks and carrying information about said groove tracks, and a recording layer formed on at least said groove tracks and said land tracks, said method comprising the steps of:

forming said groove tracks extending by irradiating a spot of a cutting light beam, which moves relatively to a recording master disk, on a photoresist layer formed on said recording master disk; and

shifting said spot of said cutting light beam in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which said groove tracks extend, returning said shifted spot to a position where said groove tracks should extend, thereby forming said land prepits having sides defined by curved surfaces continuously extending from sides of said groove tracks, and making those sides of said groove tracks which face said sides of said land prepits having curved surfaces that stricture said groove tracks,

wherein said sides of said land prepits have a radius of mean curvature smaller than a radius of mean curvature of sides of said groove tracks in non-present regions of said land prepits.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 7 [[6]], wherein said spot is caused to wobble with a first amplitude in said step of forming said groove tracks, and said spot is caused to wobble with a second amplitude greater than said first amplitude in said step of forming curved sides which stricture said groove tracks and curved sides which define said land prepits.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 7 [[6]], wherein a length of said land prepits in a tangential-to-track direction and a width of said land prepits in a direction perpendicular to said tangential-to-track direction are set to values that allow an offset level of an information signal reproduced from said groove tracks by said land prepits to be smaller than a predetermined value and a signal level of said land prepits to lie within a predetermined range.

Claim 10 (Original): A method according to claim 9, wherein said predetermined value is 0.05 and said predetermined range is 0.18 to 0.27.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An apparatus ~~according to claim 11[[],]]~~ for manufacturing a recording medium having pairs of groove tracks and land tracks provided side by side while being bent periodically, a plurality of land prepits previously formed on said land

tracks and carrying information about said groove tracks, and a recording layer formed on at least said groove tracks and said land tracks, said apparatus comprising:

a track forming section for forming said groove tracks extending by irradiating a spot of a cutting light beam, which moves relatively to a recording master disk, on a photoresist layer formed on said recording master disk; and

a land-prepit forming section for shifting said spot of said cutting light beam in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which said groove tracks extend, returning said shifted spot to a position where said groove tracks should extend, thereby forming said land prepits having sides defined by curved surfaces continuously extending from sides of said groove tracks, and making those sides of said groove tracks which face said sides of said land prepits having curved surfaces that stricture said groove tracks

wherein said sides of said land prepits have a radius of mean curvature smaller than a radius of mean curvature of sides of said groove tracks in non-present regions of said land prepits.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 12 [[11]], wherein said spot is caused to wobble with a first amplitude in said track forming section, and said spot is caused to wobble with a second amplitude greater than said first amplitude in said land-prepit forming section.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 12 [[11]], wherein a length of said land prepits in a tangential-to-track direction and a width of said land prepits in a

direction perpendicular to said tangential-to-track direction are set to values that allow an offset level of an information signal reproduced from said groove tracks by said land prepits to be smaller than a predetermined value and a signal level of said land prepits to lie within a predetermined range.

Claim 15 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said predetermined value is 0.05 and said predetermined range is 0.18 to 0.27.

Claim 16 (New): A method according to claim 7, wherein a length of said land prepits in a tangential-to-track direction and a width of said land prepits in a direction perpendicular to said tangential-to-track direction are set to values that allow an offset level of an information signal reproduced from said groove tracks by said land prepits to be smaller than a predetermined value and a signal level of said land prepits to lie within a predetermined range, and wherein said predetermined range is 0.18 to 0.27.

Claim 17 (New): An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a length of said land prepits in a tangential-to-track direction and a width of said land prepits in a direction perpendicular to said tangential-to-track direction are set to values that allow an offset level of an information signal reproduced from said groove tracks by said land prepits to be smaller than a predetermined value and a signal level of said land prepits to lie within a predetermined range, and wherein said predetermined range is 0.18 to 0.27.

Claim 18 (New): A recording medium manufactured with the apparatus according to
claim 12.